Quality of Rail Neer

689. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Rail Neer", the packaged drinking water reportedly bottled at the Railway's own bottling plant in Delhi has been introduced for sale at the Railway platforms recently;

(b) if so, the details of the projects, including steps taken to ensure that the quality of the bottled water conforms to international standards;

(c) plans drawn up, if any, for setting up other similar bottling plants in other parts of the country; and

(d) status of the contracts with the existing vendors supplying packaged water to the railways in different regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rail Neer is being made available at important Railway stations of Northern and North Central Railways, from the Rail Neer plant at Nangloi, Delhi. The plant is completed owned by Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC). Rail Neer has been tested and it conforms to the laid down stadards of Bureau of Indian Statndards.

(c) Another "Rail Neer" plant at Danapur, Patna is in an advanced stage of construction.

(d) As per policy "Rail Neer" will be the exclusive brand of packaged drinking water to be sold on Indian Railways. The regions which are, at present not covered under Rail Neer Plants are procuring BIS certified packaged drinking water.

Density of Rail Routes in M.P.

690. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway route length per thousand square km. of area in Madhya Pradesh as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) how it compares with Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) reasons for low density of rail routes in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The Railway route length (route kms) per 1000 sq. kms. in Madhya Pradesh as on 31.3.2001 is 15.52 kms. as against Andhra Pradesh 18.67 kms., Gujarat 27.10 kms., Tamil Nadu 32.21 kms and Uttar Pradesh 35.93 kms. However, in terms of route kms. per lakh of population, Madhya Pradesh with 7.93 kms. is ahead of Andhra Pradesh (6.78 kms), Tamil Nadu (6.74 kms), Uttar Pradesh (5.16 kms) as well as All India average of 6.14 kms.

(c) The expansion of rail network is not planned State-wise but is based on various considerations including operational requirement, strategic considerations, socio-econoic reasons and various other parameters.

Derailment of Karwar-Mumbai Holiday Special

691. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karwar-Mumbai holiday special derailed on the night of 22nd June, 2003 causing a major accident resulting in loss of lives and serious injuries to passengers and damage to railway property;

(b) if so, what are the causes of the accident; and

(c) the number of passengers and others who lost their lives and those who were seriously injured;

(d) the extent of loss to railway property; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Railway Safety/Central Circle has mentioned in his preliminary report